

## NO THE OTHER FOOT.

THE POINT OF VIEW OFTEN CHANGES QUICKLY.

The High-Handed Highwayman Tactics of the Trust Magnates Justified by the Same Arguments That Uphold Forensic Annexation.

"Certainly," said the business man to the reporter of the Clarion, "I shall be pleased to give you my views on the Philippine question. I think it is the duty of every loyal citizen at this time to speak out for the national honor and the advance of civilization."

"In your opinion, then, is the forcible annexation of the islands justifiable?"

"Certainly. The world has been redeemed from barbarism by similar expansion of the strong, progressive races. It is in this way that the United States has become what it is."

"But this is the first time that new territory has been acquired against the armed resistance of its native inhabitants."

"Yes, this introduces a new feature in our experience and a very unpleasant one. But the trouble is entirely owing to the folly and stupidity of the natives. With half the intelligence that they are credited with in some quarters they should know that their paltry independence would be nothing in comparison with the honor and advantage of forming a part of the first and most progressive nation on earth. And every reasonable assurance has been given them that if they will submit to our authority they shall have all the self-government they are capable of exercising—all indeed that would be good for them."

"Do you construe our course toward the Filipinos as an abandonment of the principle of government by consent?"

"Not at all. We believe as firmly as ever in government by consent. But, if the Filipinos won't consent, what are we to do? We cannot halt the car of progress, and so deprive these misguided people of the advantages and blessings of our protection and co-operation. There is really no honorable course open to us but to make them consent."

"You would say, then, that a people have a right to independence if they are strong enough to maintain it, but not otherwise?"

"Yes, that is substantially my idea. That might make right seems a hard doctrine when you state it abstractly, but after all it has been and is the principle of progress. The strong will rule, they really ought to rule. Strength is the sign of fitness."

Reporter tenders the usual thanks and retires. Business man gazes thoughtfully at the tassel of the window shade and reflects with satisfaction on the interview and how well it will look in print, feeling that he has acquitted himself handsomely as a loyal man and a lover of the flag.

His reverie is interrupted by the office boy announcing another visitor—this time a stranger of fine presence and bland manners.

"Good morning, Mr. Blank," handing card. "I have been trying to scrape an acquaintance with your town this morning. Interesting place, bright and up-to-date. You have a fine business here, things moving off in good shape, a first-class lot of men, I judge."

"Yes, our men are as good as money will hire, and we try to keep up with the times in other respects."

"You have a good local market, eh?"

"Yes; we sell in nearly every village on this line of road, and have a fair trade in our nearest city."

"Well, Mr. Blank, I represent the Consolidated Central Manufacturing company, formed about a year ago, you doubtless recall, by ten of the largest concerns in this line in the country. We are now making arrangements with the smaller establishments with a view to bring the entire business under one management. I am authorized to make you an offer for your plant of five thousand dollars in stock of the Consolidated Central."

"Five thousand dollars! You must be joking, sir. My real estate here has cost me more than twice that, and I have often made a net profit of that amount in one year."

"Well, we might increase the offer somewhat if you agree to deal with us. But you must bear in mind the changed conditions of your business since the consolidation. We have already about seven-eighths of the entire output under our control, and we have advantages in transportation that no small concern can approach. We could sell to your customers for half what you are getting and keep it up for a year, or two years, without feeling the loss. In fact, we could make up the loss in a dozen different markets where we have no competition. You estimate the value of your business here by what it has been worth in the past, but if the Consolidated Central chose to do so they could make it utterly worthless for the future, and this you should take into consideration."

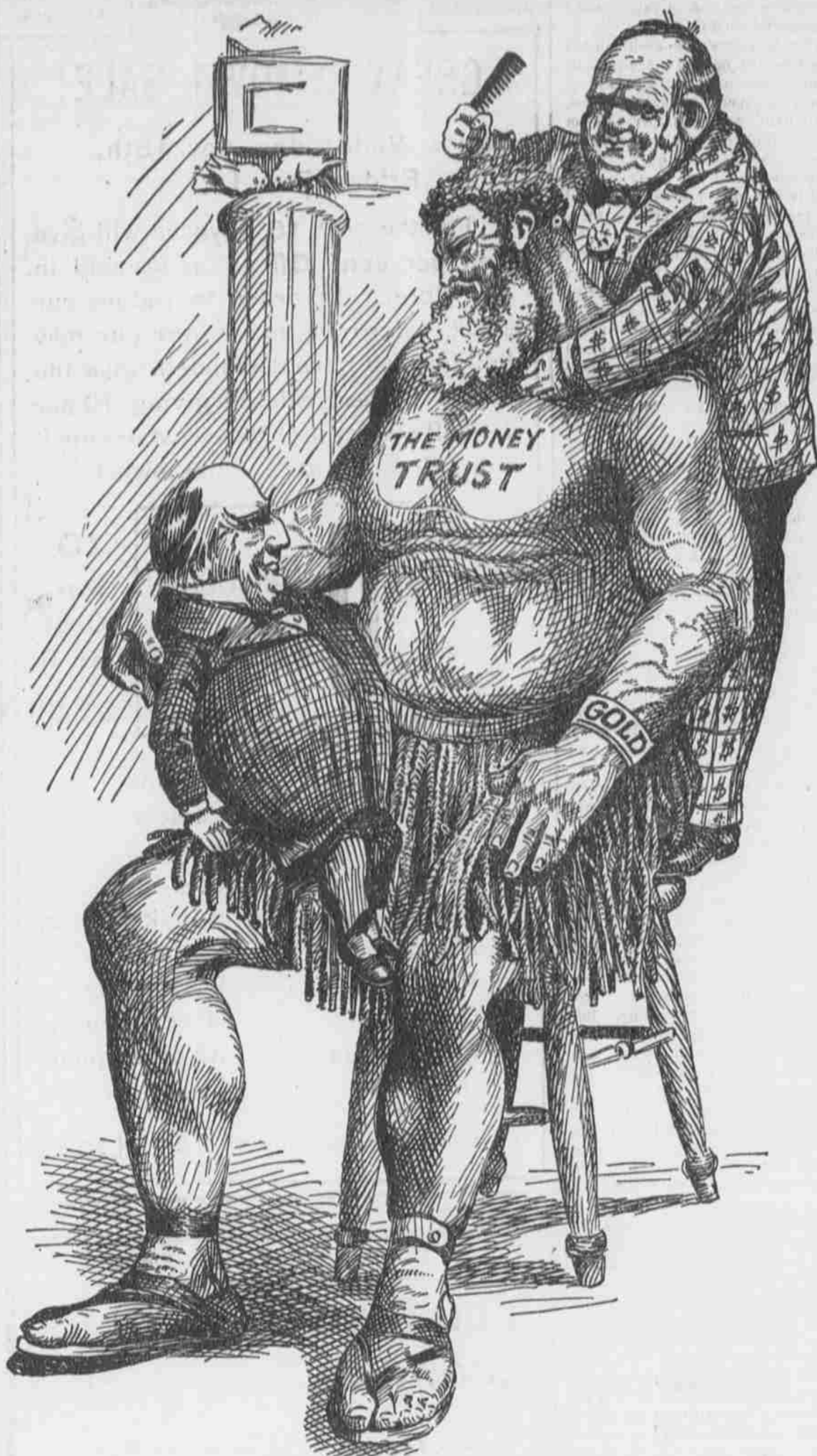
"In plain terms, then, you have the small concerns at your mercy, and will buy them at your own price or ruin their business? Do you think such a process justifiable?"

"Why, certainly, Mr. Blank; that is, in view of the general and ultimate results. Our wonderful industrial supremacy, the pride of every true American, is due in a great measure to just such consolidation, the great concerns absorbing the smaller. It is in obedience to economic law and has made the United States what it is, industrially."

"But it has not been common for the small concerns to be absorbed against the wishes of their owners and under threats of financial destruction."

"I see what you have in mind, Mr. Blank, but you are wrong to construe

## DADDY OF ALL THE TRUSTS.



A Case of Love at First Sight.  
(Apologies to Davenport.)

my little reminder as a threat. We shall pay you a fair price for your interests here unless you are so foolish as to refuse to deal with us. I named five thousand dollars, to be sure, but if you agree to make the sale promptly and quietly we shall pay you all that in our judgment you can fairly expect under the new conditions, you understand, of our line of manufacture."

"Are you prepared to state what is the best offer I could expect?"

"Really, no; not without your assurance that such offer would be accepted by you in good faith."

"It seems to me, then, to speak plainly, that the circumstances of your proposition—if you call it such—amount to a violation of the rules of honest dealing."

"Oh, not at all, Mr. Blank. We stand by honesty in our business, I assure you; and it is always our wish to deal fairly with the small proprietors. But if they refuse to be dealt with, what are we to do? We cannot leave these little concerns about the country to interfere with the proper and economical control of our industrial department. We are really bound in the interest of all concerned, and above all for the manufacturing and commercial supremacy of our great country, to compel if necessary the submission of the entire production in our line to the general control."

"I understand, then, that unless I am able to successfully defy the Consolidated Central, I must sell for a fraction of its true value the business I have been thirty years in building up, and must retire at fifty-five to poverty and involuntary idleness?"

"Why, really, Mr. Blank, I am sorry to see you take it this way. I hoped you would feel inspired by the grand future of this business, with its multiplied and cheapened production, its successful invasion of foreign markets, and all that, and would enter heartily into our plans. In that case we might very likely offer you a position with us. Of course, as you put it, it seems a little hard, but progress must go on; and it goes on the principle that might makes right. The power to control is the sign of fitness."

"Well, sir; I—ah—I hardly know what to say to you now."

"Oh, take your time, Mr. Blank, take your time. Call on me at my hotel this evening, at eight, say. We don't want to hurry you. But I hope you will conclude on reflection to put yourself in our hands. Good morning!"

The gentleman of fine presence and bland manners retires.

"Oh, heavens! What is this that is happening to me?" cries the distracted business man. "Where was I when that scoundrel came in? Oh, that reporter! I wouldn't see that interview in print now for fifty dollars. Boy!"—begins to write furiously—"take this letter down to the city editor of the Clarion. Be sure you give it to no one but himself—and be back here in five minutes. Do you hear me?"—G. B. R., in the Public.

### Suppressing Newspapers.

The federal authorities have had a lively time lately trying to suppress radical newspapers. The favorite method continues to be to bring a charge against the editor of sending obscene literature through the mails, and by aid of a packed jury and an irresponsible federal judge to put the disturber of the administration's serenity in jail. Justice has pointed out that every state where these federal prosecutions are brought has laws against printing obscene literature. But the local authorities never even institute prosecutions against these victims of federal aggression. The charge of "mailing obscene matter" is made, so that the case will come up before a federal court (whose judge is appointed and influenced from Washington) and the purpose is to stifle criticism of the imperialist policy.

The case of Walter Hurt, editor of the Gatling Gun, Cleveland, Ohio, is an illustration. His paper was not molested until in February he attacked Hanna, exposing the senator's unsavory record. Then he was arrested, charged in nine indictments with mailing obscene literature; not for libel, remember. After his arrest he was told by one of the postoffice inspectors to see Hanna, as "he got you into this trouble and can get you out." But Mr. Hurt did not "see Hanna." He is out on bail, and the monthly issues of the Gatling Gun are as lively as ever. He promises to give the administration a tussle. He announces his intention to fight the case to a finish, making no efforts to escape on technicalities, but forcing the administration to show its hand; a praiseworthy determination for which he deserves great credit. We wish him success in his fight.

The editor of the Blue Grass Blade, of Lexington, Ky., just released from

the penitentiary, where he had been sent by the federal court on a charge of mailing obscene matter, received an ovation upon his return to Lexington. He was met at the depot by a brass band and escorted by a thousand citizens to his hotel, where an immense crowd insisted upon a speech. This shows that the people of Lexington believe in a free press, even if the government does not.

Another editor has just been arrested at the instance of the federal authorities—J. R. Clifford, of the Pioneer Press, Martinsburg, Va.

Industrial Freedom, of Equality, Wash., has been excluded from the second-class mail, as has also the Non-Partisan of Colorado Springs. This is another method of suppressing reform papers, as their circulation is generally small. There are hundreds of advertising sheets admitted to the second-class privilege, although clearly not entitled to it. Many of our readers doubtless receive "sample copies" of a paper in Maine, whose proprietor boasts that he has the biggest circulation and fewest subscribers of any paper in the country. But he does not criticize imperialism. That makes a difference—Justice.

### Could Answer, But He Won't.

Because certain Cuban civil officers have been found guilty of accepting bribes, following the custom of their Spanish predecessors, President McKinley, it is said, will report to congress that the Cubans are unfit to govern themselves. But, speaking of bribes, what is the subtle influence that prevents the laying of the Commercial company's new cable to Cuba? Has it been forbidden in order to perpetuate the monopoly of the Western Union? If so, what is the "rake off" for influential officials, and who gets it? These are questions which the "Putty Napoleon" could doubtless answer if he would, but he won't—Justice.

### Trust Prices.

The prices of all articles of household consumption are rapidly advancing on account of the trusts. Living expenses are fully 50 per cent higher this year than last. When the trusts are firmly established and under full headway they intend to absorb the entire earnings of the people above the requirements of bare subsistence.—National Watchman.

## SCIENTIFIC TOPICS

CURRENT NOTES OF DISCOVERY AND INVENTION.

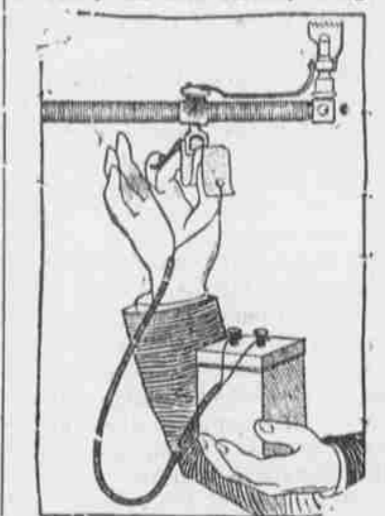
A Portable Electric Lighter—New Brick Design—Future Steam Speeds at Sea—Reason of the Scarcity of Rubber—Recent Inventions.

### Future Steam Speeds at Sea.

Writing in Cassier's Magazine on "Future Steam Speeds at Sea," Mr. J. R. Oldham says: As to the speed of the future, I remember reading an article on mechanical impossibilities written about twenty-five years ago. It was well written and possibly it was generally correct, but one operation which was cited as impossible of accomplishment, was that of propelling a steamer at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour across the ocean. At that time the Atlantic had never been crossed by a screw steamer at so high a rate as fifteen miles an hour, the Scotia being the fastest liner in those days, she having crossed the Atlantic at an average rate of 14 1-3 knots. Steaming across the ocean at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour might, therefore, well have been looked upon at that date as impossible, but today there are steamers which have reached that speed, and there are others in course of construction which may probably exceed that rate across the Atlantic. Although, roughly speaking, the power required to propel a steamer varies with the cube of the speed, yet before a third of the next century expires, another increase of at least 50 per cent in ocean speed may safely be prophesied. How this is to be accomplished it would be too hazardous to attempt to surmise; but I may point out how I think it will not be done, and that is by carrying and handling 5,000 tons of bunker coals in a hull drawing nearly 500 feet of water. The model of the ocean mail steamer of the next century will probably be that of a very much enlarged "destroyer" of great breadth and length and small draught of water forward. Lighter and stronger materials will compose the structure, which may be moved by multiple propellers, possibly working in a tunnel, so that a number of wheels could be worked by separate shafts, actuated by rotary motors, as the sizes of screws shafts and engines even now under construction are perilously large; or the motive power may be produced by compressed air or gas. Then, the form of least resistance probably being discovered, the hull, broad and light in comparison with the augmented dimensions, will rise on top of the waves rather than pass through them. The rolling and pitching may be more severe than at present, but with improved cabins and a shortened voyage the difference may not be noticed. The construction of a steamer of 65,000 tons will probably not trouble the constructors of the future nearly as much as did the building of the Great Eastern those of the past. There will be infinitely less labor, both mental and physical, than was required for the construction of a great ship in those days.

### Portable Electric Lighter.

One of the most acceptable of modern conveniences is the electric gas-lighting system which is found in all modern houses, and the only reason that it is not universal is because of the inconvenience of running the tiny cordlike wire through an old house. As a structure is in the course of erection it is a very simple matter to bury the wires in the walls, but after these walls are once finished it is a more serious problem. A means by which this wiring is rendered entirely unnecessary has been recently brought



before the patent authorities by an inventor of Brooklyn, N. Y., who has been granted a patent. By this device the act of turning on the gas is made to temporarily close an electric circuit and establish connection between a source of electricity and an igniting coil located near the tip of the burner. The source of the electricity is a battery which may be carried in the hand, as shown, or may be contained in the handle of a lighter with a jaw extension to engage the gas cock. The essential feature of this patent is the construction of the cock, which is designated in such a manner that one part is insulated from the other, and by this means a complete circuit may be established through the part comprising the cock and the pipe to the jet and returning by means of an exposed wire supported from the pipe but thoroughly insulated from it. By this scheme any number of gas jets may be put into operation one after the other without the use of a match or flame.

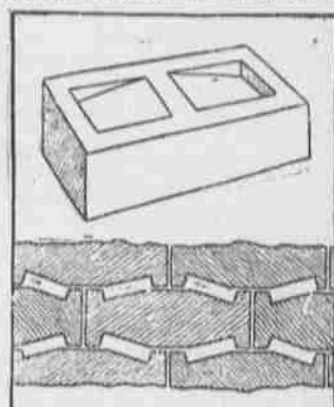
### The Type Height of a Race.

Dr. Thomson in Knowledge says in every race there are certain individuals below or above what we may term the most common height; the smaller in-

dividuals may outnumber, balance, or fall short of the taller individuals, so that their inclusion in the average may detract from the value of the result. For this reason the height of a race is best expressed by means of a binomial curve, as was first suggested by Quetelet and Galton. By the adoption of such a method we are at once enabled to recognize the standard of height attained by the greatest number of individuals, whilst the sides of the curve will illustrate the proportion of the various individuals who fall short of or exceed the common standard.

### New Brick Design.

On account of the great age of the building brick, it might be supposed that its most perfect form would have been discovered long ago, but an improvement has just been made and patented by an inventor of Philadelphia, which looks like a promising innovation. On the two widest surfaces of the brick are two wedge-shaped pockets located on each side of the middle and deepest at that part toward the extreme ends of the brick. When one brick is laid over another in the familiar manner the pockets upon the under surface of one layer of bricks will be opposite or directly over the next adjacent brick of the lower layer, thereby forming rectangular chambers, or seats, in which the mortar or cement can be forced as the bricks are



laid. The peculiarity of this construction will be obvious at once, as the bricks are held strongly against spreading or cracking by the mortar or cement which lies in the co-operative depressions in the superposed bricks. The cement is intended to fill these spaces as well as between the edges and center of brick, thus causing each brick when subjected to strain to pull against another, because of the square shoulder or abutment produced by the mortar located in its depression.

### Reason of the Scarcity of Rubber.

The scarcity of rubber is a matter that attracts the attention of so many different people, in so many lines of applied science, that some facts from one of the United States consular reports bearing on the subject will not be amiss. The principal reason advanced to explain the lack of rubber is the great difficulty in securing enough men to go into the forests along the Amazon and tap the trees. There is no immediate danger of any great shortage in the supply of rubber, but conservative opinion in the Amazon district holds that there is sure to be a steady diminution of the output for two very cogent reasons; first, the trees growing near the banks of the river are naturally the first to be tapped, and as a result are now becoming exhausted, the milk becoming poorer every year; second, the river banks have all been worked inland for a distance of about three miles from their banks, and in order to reach the fresh untouched rubber trees deeper in the forest, a much longer time and a very much larger number of men will be required. The finest rubber forests are now said to be along the Purus river, one of the large tributaries of the Amazon from the south.

### Scotch Mists and Other Mists.

Tourists in Scotland are sometimes surprised to hear the name "mist" applied to what seems to them rather a shower of rain. The peculiarity of a Scotch mist is that the drops of moisture are very large and scattering. This, according to the investigations of Mr. John Atkin, is a result of the purity of the air in the Highlands. An ordinary mist, or fog, in a dusty country or a smoky city, is dense because the moisture has innumerable floating particles to settle upon; but where the air is free from dust the fog nuclei are widely separated and resemble minute drops of rain.

### Recent Inventions.

To insure the complete closure of a gas key when turning out the light an improved lock has been designed, comprising a spring wire formed into a double loop, which is pivoted in the fixture and presses against the side of the key to force either side back against its shoulder.

In a newly designed self-igniting attachment for incandescent gas burners the top of the chimney is fitted with a mica hood, having a hole in one side in which a piece of spongy platinum is suspended, with a flat plate balanced on a bar to be lifted by the gas and close the hole after the gas is lighted by the platinum.

A combined tobacco pipe and whistle has been patented by an Englishman, having the mouthpiece screwed into the end of a tube, with an opening in the top of the tube, in which a ball valve is placed to close the opening when smoking, the ball rising when air is forced in to blow the whistle.

To insure a cut of the same depth on opposite sides of a board a new saw attachment is formed of two independent clamping members which are adjusted on the back of the saw and extend toward the teeth, being set to stop the cutting when the saw has gone to the desired depth.